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# The Brooklyn Paper

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DOWNTOWN & PARK SLOPE EDITIONS

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## HOLY SITT!

### A new Zoney Island

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The City Council on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved Mayor Bloomberg's plan to redevelop Coney Island, a controversial plan that the mayor hopes will create a major tourist destination and livable neighborhood for permanent residents.

Just before the vote, Bloomberg and Joe Sitt, the major landowner in Coney Island and a longtime opponent of the mayor's plans, made a breakthrough in their sometimes-bitter negotiations over a price for some of Sitt's large holdings, though a deal was not yet finalized.

The breakthrough involves Sitt selling a portion of his valuable territory to the city, yet retain some for lucrative development of his own, the New York Times reported. The Council's 44-2 vote would rezone Coney Island's derelict lots in hopes of creating a gleaming city-owned amusement park surrounded by enclosed attractions like movie theaters, shopping or a water park for year-round visitors and 4,500 units of housing.

The plan will rezone 19 blocks of Coney Island, much of it currently limited solely for amusements, though only a few blocks actually have seasonal amusements on site while vast portions are empty or used for other purposes due to lax enforcement.

See CONEY on page 11



## Sum-thin' else!

Dim sum is the new Sunday brunch, so flip to our GO Brooklyn section for the indispensable guide to that indispensable Chinese treat that's not just for breakfast anymore.

## REBEL YELL!

### Ridge man proudly displays Dixie flag

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

Will the south of Brooklyn rise again? Judging by the looks of the Confederate flag hanging from a terrace on the southern side of the Bay Ridge Towers, it's certainly a possibility.

The incongruous banner — considered a symbol of hatred and oppression by some but merely a sign of Southern pride by others — waves from 16th floor of the 30-story co-op tower at the corner of Fourth Avenue and 65th Street, roughly 100 miles north of the old Mason-Dixon line.

But the man behind the controversial flag told The Brooklyn Paper that his civil war isn't against the Union Army — it's against the liberals on Union Street.

"I do it is because I'm against political correctness," the Bay Ridge Reb, who would only give the name Mike, told The Brooklyn Paper. "People who are politically correct don't agree with that flag — it's my one-man protest."

"He left likes to say they celebrate diversity," he added. "I guess that's what I'm doing." Mike insists that when he hung the Confederate flag more than a year ago, he wasn't trying to promote racist views, but merely to show support for Southern heritage and values in a hotbed of Yankee liberalism (Bay Ridge).

"Anything having to do with the South or white people is sneered by sophisticated snoots in the north," said Mike, who repeatedly stated that he is not racist and has friends of multiple races who are not offended by the banner. "They make Southerners into bumpkins — and that's not the case."

"Any other flag for any other nationality or country isn't a big deal, but this flag creates controversy," he stated, referring to his version of the Confederate banner, the third such flag he has hung (the past two succumbed to "dry rot").

His version of the Confederate flag, long a logo for hate groups, includes the statement "Rebel Pride" and a small cartoon image depicting "Colonel Reb," a former University of Mississippi mascot who was officially retired in 2003 amidst much controversy. "I see other flags flying, so if they fly their flags,"

See REBEL on page 11



WHISTLIN' DIXIE: A Confederate flag hangs from a window in the Bay Ridge Towers.



DUMPING GROUND: As usual, Prospect Park was a meadow of shame on Monday morning before park workers got a chance to clean.

## No bash, plenty of trash

### Prospect Park still a filth bowl — even without a party

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Picnic and barbecue areas of Prospect Park were again filthy on Monday morning.

But unlike last Sunday, when an event-planning company held an illegal party that brought thousands of trash-creating people to the Long Meadow, it's not as clear who was to blame.

The Parks Department did not deploy enough garbage cans so that there's enough capacity for all the trash that park users create.

Then again, park workers didn't dump mounds of garbage all over the place — including an eaten



watermelon in a tree pit and barbecue refuse near the band shell and behind the Picnic House. In one major development however, the Parks Department did deploy a huge green ship-

ping container along the Center Drive near the Nethermead, and some park users took advantage, partly filling it by Sunday.

Despite its unsightliness, the Dumpster was a welcome addition, said Bob Ipcar of the dog owners group, FIDO.

"If we had four more [of them] spread out over the park, we could call this the first baby step toward reforming how parties of picnicers treat Prospect Park," he said.

"We need a Dumpster at the Picnic House and the last in the northern part of the Long Meadow."



This eaten watermelon was dumped in a tree pit.

## Brooklyn saying 'Adios' to LeNell

### Bourbon babe heads to Mexico

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

LeNell Smothers, the beloved owner of a closed Red Hook liquor store, announced she's given up her search for another store in Brooklyn and will open a booze-themed hostel to Mexico.

The emotional announcement was secretly recorded by a tippler at a whiskey tasting in a Manhattan bar last Tuesday night and posted on Spirited Cocktails, the seminal Web site for all mind-altering libations.

"I've been looking for space for two-plus years and have had a real soul search," a choked-up Smothers says on the videotape. "I just decided last week that I'm giving up the search. I'm tired and I can't do it anymore, [but] I'm not

leaving the industry."

But she's leaving the country. "It's time to move on — I'm moving to Mexico," Smothers told a room full of friends. "I'm hoping to open up a cocktail bar-and-breakfast down there." (Insiders are already calling it a "B and B and B.")

Smothers was the owner of an eponymous liquor store on Van Brunt Street that closed in February after a protracted dispute with the landlord. She had said she hoped to reopen nearby.

When reached by The Brooklyn Paper, Smothers was surprised to learn that her farewell speech had been caught on tape and hit the airwaves before she could prepare an official announcement.

She said she made up her mind to get



LeNell Smothers is fleeing south of the border, leaving her Red Hook liquor store, with its famous statuette. This map shows one possible route she'll take to get there.

out of Brooklyn when another deal for new retail space collapsed last week. "It was a space I had been negotiating on forever, but it fell through," she said.

Smothers is not the first person to look South of the Border when plans

at home soured. Other luminaries include LSD-fueled writer Ken Kesey, disgraced dueler and former Vice President Aaron Burr, and Soviet legend Leon Trotsky, whose revolutionary spirit ended at the business end of an icepick in 1940.

## Apology accepted!

### Party poopers: We messed up

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Parks Department says it is no longer pursuing repayment from an event planning company whose illegal party last Sunday in Prospect Park left the historic greensward covered in trash — thanks to an apology issued by the company late last week.

The city initially had said it would seek reimbursement for the enormous clean-up effort it undertook on July 20, when dozens of paid workers and volunteers put the park back into its normally clean condition hours after the end of the MIH Ventures' unpermitted "Heatwave" barbecue brought thousands of revelers to the park.

"Moving forward, Parks and the Prospect Park Alliance looks forward to working with [MIH Ventures] when they organize a volunteer clean-up of Prospect Park this fall," said the spokesman, Phil Abramson. "We will also en-



Last week's Brooklyn Paper

sure that they fully comply with our rules and regulations when considering any future events at Prospect Park or any other park. In consideration of their sincere apology and their initiative in hosting a clean-up effort, no further actions will be taken."

Abramson was referring to the statement issued by MIH Ventures on July 23, which claimed that the company was all set to clean up the mess it made, but the Parks Department got there first. "Attendance at the event was much greater than anticipated, overwhelming our clean-up efforts," read the statement from the Bergen Street-based event promotion company, breaking a three-day silence. "Our efforts to restore the park into its original condition extended late into the evening, but after exhausting our supplies, we decided to continue the clean-up the next day."

"When we returned with the necessary supplies and man power, the park had been cleaned," the statement claimed.

Earlier in the week, after The Brooklyn Paper broke the story about the

See APOLOGY on page 11



PUT DOWN THAT SANDWICH: Bill DeBlasio is back on the public advocate ballot.

## Bill DeBlasio is back on the ballot!

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Front-running public advocate candidate Bill DeBlasio fought his way back onto the ballot at a hearing on Tuesday, convincing the famously Kafkaesque Board of Elections that the agency, and not his campaign, had caused the error that had knocked the Park Slope councilman off the ballot last week.

DeBlasio's lawyers convinced the 10 Board of Elections commissioners that the

original paperwork handed in by the campaign, which claimed to consist of 135 volumes of nominating signatures, was accurate, breaking to the board's finding that three volumes were missing.

"It was a thunderous victory for democracy," deadpanned DeBlasio's lawyer, Stanley Schein. The "victory" seemed predetermined from the outset. After all, DeBlasio handed in roughly 117,000 more signatures than the 7,500 re-



rights lawyer Norman Siegel and Queens Councilman Eric Gioia.

Still, he had to argue before the board for his spot after officials knocked him off the ballot for the alleged discrepancy in the number of volumes that the campaign handed in.

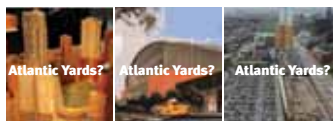
DeBlasio's lawyers presented evidence that all 135 volumes had been handed in, but that Board of Election staffers created the discrepancy by erroneously miscounting three of the volumes.

The staffers should have asked the campaign what those numbers were on the spot.

"Apparently, we didn't necessarily do that at the time," said Board of Elections President Frederic Uman, whose agency did not put up a fight against DeBlasio.

"It was unfair to the candidate," Uman added. Board of Elections critics frequently describe the agency's rules as Byzantine in their intricacy.

## Another New 'Atlantic Yards?'



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For more information, visit [www.councilofbrooklynneighborhoods.org](http://www.councilofbrooklynneighborhoods.org)



# It's about integrity

## Marty says he must knock rival off the ballot to save democracy

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz's campaign says that it must kick the Bep's sole Democratic primary challenger off the ballot to ensure the "integrity" of the ballot process.

On Monday, three Markowitz allies filed objections against nominating signatures collected by political newcomer Eugene Myrick, who handed in roughly 6,000 signatures more than the 4,000 required to secure a spot on the Sept. 15 primary ballot.

Markowitz election lawyer, former state Sen. Marty Connor, said that Myrick's submissions were so sloppy that the campaign had to object if only to protect "the integrity of the balloting process."

"In 38 years as an election lawyer,

I've never seen anything like this," said Connor. "He filed 4,477 sheets [of signatures] in 20 volumes — but only 1,201 sheets had any signatures on them at all. He filed pages and pages of blank sheets."

The challenge to Myrick's candidacy was formally filed by Debra Kresh-Garcia, who is the executive director of Markowitz's Seaside Summer Concert Series, and two other Brooklynites whose connection to Markowitz is unknown. Markowitz is listed on the objection as "a candidate aggrieved."

Connor argued that Myrick's "clear attempt was to deceive."

"The first few sheets of a volume will have signatures and the last few sheets will have signatures, but there are hundreds of blank pages in between," Connor said. "He's hoping



Eugene Myrick (right) wants to challenge Borough President Markowitz, but the hoop is moving to knock him off the ballot.

someone will look at the first few and the last few and think, 'Oh, boys, they have a lot of signatures.'"

Late on Wednesday, more than a day after Connor alleged fraud, Myrick finally issued a statement. "I am confident that I have obtained in excess of the 4,000 signatures required to remain on the ballot," he said.

Last week, he was far more critical of Markowitz.

"Why not let the democratic process play itself out with campaigning, debates and allowing the people to vote?" he asked. "What are they afraid of?"

They're afraid, Connor said, of allowing someone on the ballot who does not belong there. Connor alleged that at least 8,034 of Myrick's signatures are invalid because the signer either does not live in Brooklyn or is not a registered voter.

"It's not like there are only a few mistakes in his filing — it's almost entirely garbage," Connor said. "It's about the integrity of the process."

Nobody's seen it so clearly. After The Brooklyn Paper reported last week about the Markowitz campaign's preliminary news challenge, Myrick's online version of the story was flooded with comments about Markowitz's attempt to ensure that he does not have a Democratic challenger.

OK, Mr. Porch-wine drinking, Brooklyn Bridge-selling, pretend-Cyclone riding, sound machine, potato-shaped amphitheater proponent, Atlantic Yards crappy giveaway, Boro the Bep, I WILL NEVER VOTE FOR YOU AGAIN! EVER! NEVER! EVER! NEVER! EVER!

I would write in Sarah Palin before I would even consider pulling the lever under your name."

Borough President Marty Markowitz. As they say in Gaelic, you are a part 13 vote for anyone but you come this November. You self-serving, loud and obnoxious political hack."

# The (copy) machine candidate

## Josh Skaller copies rival Lander's e-mail word for word

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

A tight race for a rare open City Council seat in Brownstone Brooklyn was thrown into turmoil, however briefly, this week after one of the can-

didates copied another's press release and passed it off as his own.

Josh Skaller, running well in a five-way Democratic primary for the City Council district covering parts of

Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus and Windsor Terrace, lifted passages about a widely criticized Park Slope development project from an e-mail sent a day earlier by his opponent Brad Lander.

Skaller's wording was almost identical (see sidebar).

Initially, Skaller, an IT director, declined to comment about the apparent plagiarism, but later on Tuesday his campaign sent out a statement, calling the cut-and-paste job a "mistake."

"This particular e-mail was intended to inform people about Monday's rally," said Steven Stiles, a spokesman for Skaller. "It was a task assigned to a volunteer, who was trying to help the campaign. In a big campaign, unfortunately, mistakes happen, and it slipped through our fingers. Everyone was trying to help the residents of Carroll Street."

The embarrassing blunder arose in an effort to get supporters to attend Monday's protest outside the controversial condo development on that Park Slope street. Lander, the former director of the Pratt Center for Community Development, sent an alert on Sunday asking people to attend the rally between Fourth and Fifth avenues. Skaller's strikingly similar message hit area Inboxes on Monday morning.

"The developer is already allowed to build a substantial development 'as-of-right,'" Lander wrote. "Neighbors may not have loved it, but it was within the rules, and included a front-garden area. But now he wants to change the rules and build even more units (where the garden was supposed to be)."

Hours later, Skaller chimed in.

"The developer is already allowed to build a substantial development 'as-of-right,'" his statement said. "Neighbors may not have loved that, but it was then within the rules and the development included a front garden area. Now, however, the developer wants to change the rules and build even more units — where the garden was supposed to be."

Lander refrained from criticizing Skaller, instead focusing on the strong turnout at the demonstration.



Brad Lander



Josh Skaller

"It's great that a lot of people turned out to help their neighbors," Lander said. "My goal was to get people there."

Of course, an e-mail is not the first thing the two front-runners have shared this political season. Former presidential candidate and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean made the baffling decision to endorse both men in June.

John Heyer, a funeral director and an aide to Borough President Markowitz, Gary Reilly, an attorney, and Bob Zuckerman, the former director of the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, are also running for the Democratic nomination to succeed Councilman Bill DeBlasio, who is running for public advocate.

In cribbing from another politician, Skaller certainly is in good company. During the presidential election, then Sen. Barack Obama used a phrase coined by his friend, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick.

And Vice President Biden gave up his 1988 run for president after it was discovered that he lifted passages from speeches by Neil Kinnock, a British politician, and Robert F. Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey.

## A WAR OF WORDS

City Council candidate Josh Skaller was caught cribbing a campaign mailing from Brad Lander, his main rival in the Democratic primary for the Park Slope-Windsor Terrace seat. Here's an easy way to compare what Lander wrote to what Skaller wrote (differing words are highlighted).

### BRAD LANDER, Sunday night

"The developer is already allowed to build a substantial development 'as-of-right.' Neighbors may not have loved it, but it was then within the rules, and included a front-garden area. But now he wants to change the rules and build even more units (where the garden was supposed to be). The variance requested by the developer would create a site that is wholly out of scale with the rest of the neighborhood."

"There is overwhelming public opposition to this variance. Nearly all of the neighbors on Carroll and Garfield Places have signed a petition. The Land Use Committee of Community Board 6 voted unanimously against it."

### JOSH SKALLER, Monday morning

"The developer is already allowed to build a substantial development 'as-of-right.' Neighbors may not have loved that, but it was then within the rules and the development included a front garden area." "Now, however, the developer wants to change the rules and build even more units — where the garden was supposed to be. Did someone say 'greed'? This variance requested by the developer would create a site that is wholly out of scale with the rest of the neighborhood and there is overwhelming public opposition to this. Nearly all of the neighbors on Carroll Street and Garfield Place have signed a petition. The Land Use Committee of Community Board 6 voted unanimously against it."

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# Biv whacker! Longshot rages against 'machine'

By Ben Muessegger  
The Brooklyn Paper

The organizers of Tuesday's 33rd City Council District debate dubbed their Williamsburg forum a "Verbal Smackdown," but only one of the hopefuls took that name literally.

The vociferous upstart and Brooklyn Heights resident Doug Biviano attacked front-running candidates Jo Anne

Simon, Evan Thies, and Steve Levin — who was not even at the debate, his fourth such absence during the campaign — for being "machine politicians" who were complicit in the controversial 2005 rezoning of Williamsburg and Greenpoint that has not resulted in promised parkland and affordable housing.

"They were there at the table with the city — they were cutting deals," said Biviano, who went straight at his rivals from the first question. "They are part of the Democratic machine. They never stood up."

"Are you going to be a part of the Thies, Levin, Simon machine?" he continued at the July 29 debate, organized by Neighbors Allied for Good Growth at the Williamsburg Northside Preschool on N.

Fifth Street. "I'm going to lead. I'm going to do something different."

Biviano — a civil engineer, building superintendent, and one of three — assaulted Thies and Levin for their resumes, too. Thies was chief of staff for Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn

Heights), while Levin remains chief of staff to powerful Democratic Party boss and Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick).

Biviano even demanded that Lopez step down from his role as head of the Kings County Democratic party.

This — a Williamsburg resident and community activist campaigning heavily on a more inclusive rezoning procedure he calls "60-degree zoning" — fired back.

"Doug, there are a lot of people in this room who worked very hard for that rezoning," he responded. "It's disgraceful you would say that."



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## Beep: Ballot challenge is all about 'integrity'

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

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Jerry from Coney Island added, "Borough President Marty Markowitz: As they say in Gaelic, you are a putz! I'd vote for anyone but you come this November. You self-serving, loud and obnoxious political hack."

Abraham, a spokesman and activist in South Williamsburg's Hasidic community, suggested the city delve into an untapped Department of Housing Preservation and Development fund to quickly create more units of affordable housing, and urged the federal government to bail out stalled development projects.

Bier, a longtime environmentalist, proposed zoning sections of the Williamsburg and Greenpoint waterfront that were ignored just four years ago and adding more cars to the G train to combat overcrowding.

Diamondstone, a longtime political activist, urged the city to purchase foreclosed condo buildings and turn them into affordable housing, and promised to reform the Council.

Levin, who skipped the debate in order to take part in an upstate labor conference, wasn't able to immediately shoot down Biviano's assertion that he was a "backroom coward."

"We're going to keep positive," said Levin, who called the labor gathering "a very significant policy meeting regarding affordable housing and the living wage."

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# THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## PARK SLOPE

### Developer faces critics

#### Carroll Street protest draws unexpected guest

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

An unpopular developer surprised his critics and faced down a crowd of protesters in Park Slope on Monday night, taking questions from those who are demanding that the city reject the builder's request to exceed the density limits at the Carroll Street site.

Black House Development says it needs to build three extra townhouses in addition to the 17 luxury units already underway because of "economic hardship" caused, allegedly, by the underground remains of a power plant.

"We had no idea there was a Con Edison substation," Ashwin Verma, a partner in the firm, told several dozen protesters who were rallying at the construction site, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

Verma and his partner — both admittedly inexperienced in New York real estate — added that they want to "cooperate with the community."

"We will put in trees; we will support a park," said the



Developer Ashwin Verma showed up at the rally to plead his case — namely, that he can't make a fair profit without a zoning change so he can build more units.

partner, Sean Ludwick.

But the assembled residents still object to the size and design of the original plans — which were created by renowned Mexican architect Enrique Norten — and called for the Board of Standards and Appeals to deny Black House's application for

houses, four stories tall.

"The major issue is the density," said Al Tessier, an opponent who lives on Carroll Street, who was not swayed by the developer's claims of financial woe.

"That's not a good enough reason for us to suffer in perpetuity," said Tessier.

Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Carroll Gardens) and Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) have urged the Board of Standards and Appeals to turn down Black House's proposal. In June, Community Board 6 passed a resolution asking the Board to reject the plans.

Relations were already strained between the developers and neighbors because of allegedly reckless construction. Neighbors claimed work has cracked sidewalks, flooded basements and sent nails and other debris raining onto the street.

"They're not responsible," said Johnny Worbe, a carpenter who lives next to the project's rear side, which extends to Garfield Place. "This has been a disaster."

## PROSPECT HEIGHTS

### Big changes at Tom's Diner

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The beloved owner of Tom's Restaurant in Prospect Heights has gone into semi-retirement and handed over the grill to his nephew who promises no changes in the famously courteous diner — except that it will finally be open on Sundays.

Gas Vlahavas, the cheerful face who stopped by every table and handed dollar coins and treats to the kids, stopped working full-time at the luncheonette named for his father in May. The retirement began after his wife, Nona, another fixture in the greasy spoon, developed arthritis. Vlahava's nephew Jim Kokotas told The Brooklyn Paper.

"Gas decided to ride off into the sunset with her. He said, 'We came in together, so we'll go out together,'" said Kokotas.

The passing of the torch was first reported by Brownstoner.com on Thursday.

Tom's Restaurant, proud purveyor of hearty breakfasts like sweet potato pancakes and beef sausage, opened in 1936 as an ice cream parlor under a different name. Vlahava's father acquired the Washington Avenue eatery in the 1940s from the original owners, who were family friends, and renamed it Tom's, Kokotas said.



Jim Kokotas, owner of Tom's Diner, has replaced beloved former owner (and his uncle) Gas Vlahavas as the public face of the famed diner.

It was the affable Gas who elevated the level of customer service. It was his idea to provide free coffee, orange slices, cookies and French fries to Saturday morning patrons waiting for tables in the tightly packed dining room. His nephew said he also is responsible for the kitchy, yet endearing, decor, which could be described as quintessential Americana.

"Gas was the mastermind behind all that," said Kokotas. "He took family friendly service and brought it to a new level."

The once-complaint customers have had for years is that the restaurant didn't open on Sundays, because Vlahavas was a dedicated member of

two church choirs.

Kokotas, himself a regular churchgoer, said Tom's will begin Sunday service in September or October once a new kitchen crew and waitstaff can be assembled for the extra shift.

"Gas made it clear that 'one of the things he wants to do,'" he said. "But give me some time, because he didn't want to sacrifice the quality of the food and the service."

The restaurant has been popular for decades and its place in the neighborhood enabled it to survive New York City's darkest days. In the rioting following the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, black and white customers protested the restaurant from looters who destroyed other businesses in the neighborhood.

Not all the lore associated with Tom's is true. Contrary to persistent rumors, Suzanne Vega did not write her hit "Tom's Diner," about this restaurant. That honor belongs to the Tom's Restaurant in Manhattan, whose facade regularly appeared in episodes of "Seinfeld," an enduring 1980s comedy series.

That said, a copy of the lyrics to the Vega song, signed by the artist, adorns the wall in the back corner of the eatery.

## DOWNTOWN

### Boar stiff!

#### F. Martinella deli closes

By Robert Voris  
The Brooklyn Paper

The pastrami experiment has failed.

F. Martinella, the "old-time" deli created by Boar's Head nine months ago as a test of customer eating habits, closed earlier this month, the victim of high rents, an economic downturn and the fact that customers can buy Boar's Head products at pretty much every other deli in Brooklyn.

Also, the rent for the Court Street location was "at an astronomical level," a local real-estate broker once told The Brooklyn Paper.

The novelty was not the meat — indeed, where can't

you get a Boar's Head sandwich in Downtown? — but the throwback atmosphere, which featured lots of counter space, picture windows and tile on the floor, just like the delis of yesteryear.

But that old-time, "Johnny Rockets" feel was a mirage. The "Since 1949" sign on the front door was a lie; the name F. Martinella a hybrid formed from the names of two of Boar's Head's corporate officers.

With 2,100 employees and more than \$800 million in sales last year, Boar's Head is not about to perish without its Court Street sandwich experiment, a point that was not missed by posters on



The much-hyped F. Martinella Deli on Court Street has closed after a very short run.

the Brooklyn Heights Blog, which has documented the store's rise and fall.

"From its invented vintage to its tiled floors to its fake name fronting for a giant meat

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# Slimy super in horrific N. Eighth Street rape

## 90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

A woman was raped in the basement of her S. Eighth Street apartment building on July 23, cops said.

The victim told police that she went out with friends and returned to the building, which is between Driggs Avenue and Roebing Street, at around 12:30 a.m.

She said she remembered entering her apartment building, but doesn't remember anything before waking up hours later in the basement being sexually assaulted on a mattress by the super.

She told him to stop and pushed him away, but he persisted.

It is unclear how the attack ended.

**Hunger strikes**

A thief grabbed a strap-hanger's wallet at the Marcy Avenue subway station on July 21.

The victim was walking down the stairs of the G-train station at around 10:30 a.m. when a man approached and stated, "I'm hungry."

But he wasn't after only food. The perp then brandished a knife before snatching the victim's wallet.

**ATM grab**

A thief forced a man to take cash out of an ATM and give it to him on July 20.

The victim was on his way to the money machine on Berry Street at around 10:30 p.m. when the thug came up and threatened him with a gun.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

The victim gave the thug \$40, but that wasn't enough.

So the victim took \$200 more out of the ATM near S. Second Street. The thug then fled with the cash.

**Radio raid**

Thieves broke into a Ford sedan that a Queens man had parked at Union Avenue near the corner of Powers Street on July 21 at 3 a.m.

When the victim returned to his unlinked vehicle about 11 hours later, he discovered his radio and security camera had been stolen.

**Subway swipe**

A thief grabbed a woman's iPhone on the J train on July 23.

The victim was boarding at the Lorimer Street station at around 3:30 p.m. when a man approached her and instructed her to hand over the popular smartphone with a chilling warning: "I'll kill you."

The victim gave him the phone, and he fled at the Marcy Avenue stop.

**Pepper-sprayed**

A thug grabbed a man's wallet while he was trying to enter his apartment on S. Second Street on July 22.

The thug snatched up at around 1 a.m. as the victim at the front door of the building, which is between Driggs Av-

enue and Roebing Street.

He yelled "Hey!" and the victim turned around and promptly got sprayed in the face with a pepper ball.

While the victim tended to his burning eyes, the perp grabbed the wallet and fled on his bike.

**Brawlberry**

Thugs were hungry for BlackBerry on July 25, cops said.

In the first incident, a perp beat up a guy on his way home and took his wallet and smartphone as he was walking along S. First Street near Driggs Avenue at 4:30 a.m.

About eight hours later, a gang of thieves surrounded a man near the corner of Leonard and Boorum streets, pushed him to the ground and took the device.

**Van victim**

Thieves stole a Ford Windstar that had been parked on Havemeyer Street at 11:30 a.m. on July 22.

Once again, the quiet stretch of Flatbush Avenue near the belfry Prospect Park Zoo was a thieves' playground last week as between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at around 7:20 p.m. when the thief moved in and grabbed her purse, which contained her wallet, \$70 and, perhaps most important, her \$25 Starbucks gift card.

**Grand theft auto**

When a surprise — only one reported car theft last week in Park Slope, which has seen auto-theft soar 65 percent this year.

In this case, a villain stole a 1998 Saturn from a spot on B'way Street sometime between July 19 and July 31.

The 25-year-old victim told cops that she returned to the spot, which is between Third and Fourth avenues, and found the old car gone.

**Subway stickup**

A crook grabbed a subway rider's Sidekick out of the T-Mobile shop on Van derbilt Avenue gave a friend a credit card number to help her pay her cable and other tricity bills — but the big problem was that the number belonged to a T-Mobile customer.

The victim realized that he'd been duped a few days after buying a phone on July 20 from the store, which is between Prospect and St. Marks places. He noticed that more than \$1,000 had been charged to his card, and when he called the person who made the charges, she said her friend had given her the number to help her pay some bills.

**Car cracked**

A thief broke into a car on Underhill Avenue overnight on July 23 and made off with fancy electronics and more personal items.

The victim locked her car up at 6 p.m. on July 23, and returned to find the car's lock picked and her iPod, laptop, navigation system, eyeglasses and hair straightener gone.

— Robert Voris

**76TH PRECINCT**

Cobble Hill-Red Hook

**Rags to riches**

A disheveled thief robbed a children's boutique on Smith Street on July 10.

The villain, dressed in "dirty" and "torn" garb, entered Area Kids, between Butler and Douglas streets, at 6:20 p.m. and first asked if the shop sold bicycles. (Come on!)

He then simulated having a gun underneath his shirt that was pointed at the clerk. The employee, a 25-year-old man, gave the robber \$250.

**Full Nelson**

Two muggers choked and punched a woman in the face near her subway pass and banking and credit cards.

**Burgled**

An apartment on Union Street was burglarized on July 11 — and the thief got an iPod.

Cops said that the two roommates who live in the dwelling between Court and Smith streets were not in the apartment from 1:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.

When the 23-year-old woman who lives in the dwelling returned, she saw

## CAUGHT! Bike thieves are collared in the 76th Precinct

By Mike McLaughlin

The 76th Precinct

Police nabbed two men last week that they believe are responsible for a spate of bicycle thefts in Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens.

An officer busted two local men — Adrian Figueroa, 37, and Gaspar Alcade, 49 — who were seen clipping the locks on two bikes that had been tethered on Wyckoff Street on July 20.

Before their arrest, there were at least seven other cycles stolen between July 1 and 15 in the 76th Precinct.

But since a cop cuffed the pair between Hoyt and Smith streets, there have been no reported missing penny-farthings, according to a community affairs officer in the precinct.

That said, the police have not linked Figueroa and Alcade to any of the earlier crimes.

"We're still investigating it," said Vincent Marrone, a cop at the Union Street stationhouse in Carroll Gardens.

It's clear that the men are not suspects in every case. In the one incident last week that had a witness — on Union Street on July 8 at 5:20 a.m. — the victim simply gave his bike to a stranger who asked to "borrow" it.

The villain, far younger than the arrested men, never returned the bike to the victim, 49, who was left forlorn near the corner of Henry Street.

no one gets hurt."

The teller quickly gave the criminal an unknown amount of cash from her drawer.

The bank had its grand-opening ceremony one day earlier.

**Boys to men**

Two teenagers and hundreds of pairs of jeans from a national clothing chain on Atlantic Avenue on July 31.

The trio raided the boys section of Old Navy, between Fort Greene Place and S. Portland Avenue, at 3:55 p.m. and allegedly stole 224 pairs of dungarees.

— Mike McLaughlin

**72ND PRECINCT**

Prospect Heights

**Barbershock**

Police arrested a 25-year-old man suspected of assaulting another woman at Shorty's barbershop on Washington Avenue just before 3 p.m. on July 22.

An argument turned violent when the suspected started swinging at the victim, punching her in the face before fleeing the barbershop, which is between Dean and Bergen streets.

The assailant was arrested later that afternoon.

**Wrong number**

An inscrutable clerk at the T-Mobile shop on Van derbilt Avenue gave a friend a credit card number to help her pay her cable and other tricity bills — but the big problem was that the number belonged to a T-Mobile customer.

The victim realized that he'd been duped a few days after buying a phone on July 20 from the store, which is between Prospect and St. Marks places. He noticed that more than \$1,000 had been charged to his card, and when he called the person who made the charges, she said her friend had given her the number to help her pay some bills.

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When the 23-year-old woman who lives in the dwelling returned, she saw

and N. Third streets, causing lacerations on the 28-year-old's lip and chin.

The bottle-brandishing woman was soon collared by police.

**Copper robber**

A 38-year-old was arrested for that ultimate green crime: breaking into a construction site and stealing copper pipes on July 21.

The suspect is said to have broken into the building, which is at Norman and Kingsland avenues, at around 9:30 a.m. and caused \$7,000 in damages to doors and air conditioners.

But cops nabbed their suspect soon after, the latest would-be copper thief in a neighborhood that has seen too many of them.

**Break-in**

A stealthy burglar ransacked a Monitor Street house overnight on July 31, getting away with hundreds of dollars in pricey electronics and jewelry.

The crook got into the home, which is between Norman and Nassau avenues, sometime after the 19-year-old victim left his home at around 10 p.m. When the resident returned at 4 a.m., he discovered that cash, jewelry, a laptop and a Playstation 3 were missing.

— Jared Foretek

**68TH PRECINCT**

Bay Ridge

**Super robbery!**

A thief robbed a cash register from Frank and Eddie's Meats and Deli on Third Avenue.

The burglar broke into the store, which is on the corner of Bay Ridge Parkway and between 7th and 8th streets, at around 7 p.m. on the next day, when the owner returned to find the front door broken and \$300 missing.

**Peeing Tom**

A burglar broke into a Senator Street apartment on July 23 — and was caught inside when the resident returned.

The victim told police that she left the house at around 1:30 p.m. and returned only an hour later.

When she tried to open the door, it was stuck. The reason? The burglar was standing behind the door peeping through her peep hole from inside the apartment.

The perp fled through the kitchen window without taking a thing from the apartment, which is between Third Avenue and Ridge Boulevard.

**Pistol whipped**

Two hoodlums brutally beat and robbed two people on July 31.

The victims were on 62nd Street at around 9:30 p.m. when they passed the thug who were walking the other way.

Shortly after passing, one of the thieves grabbed a victim, turned him around and took his bag.

His accomplice then approached the other, brandished a black handgun, and said, "You don't want to die for less than \$100."

He then hit the victim in the face with the gun. They took a few more valuables and fled.

**Get a bank**

A thief entered a Fort Hamilton Parkway apartment by climbing up the fire escape and through a window on July 31.

The victim was gone from 3 a.m. to around 6 a.m., when she returned to the apartment, which is between 85th and 86th streets, to find her closet door broken and \$1,500 removed from a doll in which she had stuffed the cash.

**Ransacked!**

A messy thief ransacked one woman's Glaston Avenue apartment on July 31.

The victim left at 8 a.m. and returned at around 7 p.m. to an utterly destroyed front lock and clothes and other property thrown all over her floor. The thief apparently got hungry taking items from the fridge.

Well, he got a \$1,000 watch, \$800 in cash, \$3,300 in savings, and a \$250 camera from the apartment, which is between 92nd and 94th streets.

**Car crazy!**

An unusually high number of car thefts have caused some alarm in Bay Ridge last week. Here's a roundup:

• A motorcycle jacker robbed one man's 2008 Yamaha on July 22 from a spot on 79th Street between 13th and 14th avenues.

• A thief jacked a 2001 Dodge Caravan from a spot on 72nd Street between 13th and 14th avenues sometime between July 21 and 7:30 a.m. on July 22.

— Thomas Nocera

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# POST OFFICE MORTEM

## Budget cuts could stamp out your PO

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

Money-saving measures might cost Brooklynites their neighborhood post offices. The United States Postal Service is considering closing postal stations and branches around the borough in hopes of trimming a debt that is already in the billions — potentially leaving the borough's small mail enthusiasts further from their nearest post offices.

"The postal service is reviewing more than 3,000 stations and branches nationwide," said postal spokeswoman Darlene Reed. "With the state of the business now, everything is on the table."

Not only is the Postal Service in trouble financially, but the very nature of its business has changed due to the new-fangled invention called the e-mail, which has revolutionized communication in the way that the telegraph obviated the Pony Express.

The agency insists it hasn't made any final decisions about which stations and branches it will close, but insiders from the American Postal Workers Union claim that three stations and 18 "retail" stations — which are just like regular post offices except that they don't house mail carriers — are under particular scrutiny for closure in Brooklyn.

"The Postal Service is trying to get out of the retail business altogether," said Jim Musumeci, president of the American Postal Workers Union's Brooklyn local. "There are only three or four clerks and assigned to each retail station. There are no letter carriers working out of these stations. They are strictly selling stamps, postal money order, so they think it would be easier to close them."

None of the changes would go into effect until the fall — and not without substantial public warning, postal officials said.

Here's how the postal cuts could end up slowing the borough:



**PARK SLOPE:** To save cash in the 11215 ZIP code, which has two satellite stations, the Postal Service is considering eliminating either the retail location on Seventh Avenue near Second Street or its counterpart on Prospect Park West near 7th Street, according to Musumeci. Closing either retail station would likely divert customers to the already busy Van Brunt Station on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, which is the main station in the busy 11215 region. Clearly, customers aren't happy. "It would be a pain in the neck," said Seventh Avenue mailer Margaret Hagen. "The lines at Ninth Street are already very difficult. There is limited space there, too. The little post offices take pressure off of the big post offices." Others complained of extremely poor service at the Ninth Street location.

**BAY RIDGE/DYKER HEIGHTS:** Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights may face one retail station closure and one branch consolidation. The agency is considering consolidating the Dyker Heights branch near the corner of 13th Avenue and 83rd Street into the Fort Hamilton Branch on 9th Avenue near the corner of 88th Street, Musumeci noted. "It's gonna be really inconvenient," said resident Kevin Thornton as he strolled down 13th Avenue. "I can do everything here, but for one thing I'm going to have to go to Bay Ridge!" On the north side of the neighborhood, the Postal Service is pondering shutting down the Ovington station on Fourth Avenue near 68th Street — a proposal that has already riled state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge). "Bay Ridge can not be adequately served by one post office," he said in a statement.



**RED HOOK:** The Postal Service is considering closing the Red Hook branch on Clinton Street — potentially diverting mailers and the couriers themselves as far away as Cadman Plaza East in Downtown. said Musumeci. Post office users in the already-isolated neighborhood might be left schlepping to the Van Brunt station on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues — a proposal they aren't particularly happy about. "Say what? That ain't no good idea," said Red Hook resident Flay Lights at the office near the corner of Centre Street. "Look at all the people here, where are we going to go?" This post office is convenient for everybody. We need it! The location is also a popular one for passport applicants, as there are few lines for that service. Lines are far longer at the Park Slope and Cadman Plaza stations.

# Crash of the fightin's!

## A week of out-of-control meetings over stalled Atlantic Yards

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

They've said it before — and they said it again.

Supporters and opponents of the embattled Atlantic Yards project clashed at two public hearings this Wednesday and an information session last Wednesday, rebuffing familiar arguments over the controversial mega-project in the wake of a new proposal that would give developer Bruce Ratner sweeter terms.

The July 29 hearing at the New York Technical College on Jay Street wasn't as uproarious as the June 22 session, where years of built-up frustration erupted from project boosters and foes who long ago made up their minds on the merits of the basketball arena and the 16-skycraper development planned for Prospect Heights.

But that doesn't mean it wasn't without excitement.

More than 50 project opponents as well as a who's who of politicians and City Council candidates rallied outside the hearing, demanding the project be halted in the wake of a city-approved last month that would allow Forest City to build the project at a slower pace, pay the Metropolitan Transportation Authority less money up front for development rights to a smaller portion of the rail yards at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, and to make less-costly rail yard renovations than initially promised.

"The end is near. It's time to put the proposed Atlantic Yards development out of its misery," said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene).

Meanwhile, about a dozen supporters of the project — who were later joined at the hearing by a larger bloc of Atlantic Yards backers — held up signs and chanted: "You can stop the progress."

Inside the hearing, Daniel Goldstein, who is not only the spokesman for Developer Don't Destroy Brooklyn, but a homeowner in the footprint



Carpenter Manny Gialitis makes a point at a July 22 community board meeting.



Sarah Wenk (left) and Gilly Youner turned their backs on Borough President Markowitz during Wednesday's hearing.

of the proposed Nets basketball arena, was the center of attention.

The outspoken project opponent replaced maps of the project site with his own posters emblazoned with large question marks next to the words "Atlantic Yards Site Plan and Renderings" and "Atlantic Yards Cost Benefit Analysis."

"We are here to comment on a project with no rendering, no site plan, no nothing. It's ludicrous. It's a farce. It's a sham process for a sham

project," said Goldstein, whose comments were met with cheers and boos.

When a booster of the project accused "a small group of people" of delaying a public benefit for a larger faction of supporters, Goldstein interrupted, shouting, "We're not a small group of people! We have thousands of people with us!"

After the outburst, police escorted Goldstein out of the auditorium, though they permitted him to return moments later.

Borough President Markowitz touted Atlantic Yards as a way to put Brooklynites to work, eliciting applause from some, and heckling from others. At least two project opponents turned their backs to the Beep as he spoke.

There were fewer interruptions than at last week's informational session held by Community Boards 2, 6 and 8. At that meeting, a crowd of union workers heckled critics of the project and eventually brought the meeting to a standstill with scintillating chants of "Build it now!" and "Union jobs!"

The \$4.9-billion mega-project has been stalled by the downturn in the economy as well as Ratner's inability to find commercial tenants for the project's signature skyscraper, the now-tabled "Miss Brooklyn" tower. Opponents say that the changes to the General Project Plan approved last month require another round of public review. Critics say that the project should not go forward without at least two findings that would allow the public to see what Ratner envisions now that architect Frank Gehry, the designer whose inclusion in the project was one of its initial selling points, is no longer on the case.

His firm has been replaced by Ellerbe Becket, whose initial designs have shown a generic basketball arena that some liken to an airport hangar.

Supporters say that the entire project, when completed by 2019, will create jobs and economic development. But the modified general project plan now only calls for Ratner to build the arena and up to four buildings around it. Land for the so-called Phase II is not currently being acquired.

# It was a tale of two Yards

Both sides of the Atlantic Yards saga — mostly construction workers in favor and neighbors of the project footprint in opposition — were out in force at Wednesday's hearing in Downtown. Here's what our sharp-eared reporter heard.

## SUPPORTERS



"I'm here to fight for good jobs. We've been bombing for enough as it is with eight years, it's time to build. ... I don't see too many negatives. We've been spending money to destroy stuff, so anything built in America stop progress." **Joe Gelo, Queens**



"It's very important to provide opportunities for people to better their lives. The plan is providing housing, recreation, and career opportunities. ... It's also about our future. What can we provide our children?" **Anthony Williamson, Downtown**

## OPPONENTS



"It's over-development. ... What I love about Brooklyn is the sky and the people. The buildings will cast that's my affordable housing. It's ridiculous to put an enormous stadium in the middle of a residential neighborhood!" **Beverly Corbin, Park Slope**

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 31, 2009

# Get Sum!

GO Brooklyn's guide to the best dim sum in town

By the GO Dim Sum Squad  
The Brooklyn Paper

One billion Chinese people can't be wrong. When you're eating your overpriced, overbaked Sunday brunch, the Chinese are tucking into steamers full of fresh-made dumplings, buns, noodle dishes, meats and sweets.

They call it dim-sum. We call it delicious.

Foodies have long flocked to dim sum parlors that line Eighth Avenue in Sunset Park and Avenue U in Bensonhurst, where carts loaded with bamboo and metal steamers clamor down narrow aisles. But now dim sum, which roughly translates to "this the spot," is the new Sunday brunch for even Brooklynites who couldn't find the meat on a chicken foot (we can, see sidebar).

And with such a variety of offerings, the cuisine — which originated centuries ago as a tea snack and has emerged as a key culinary and cultural tradition in Hong Kong and China's Guangdong province — certainly lives up to its name.

"Every kind of cooking style that you can imagine is present — it's not all dumplings, by any means," said Chinese food expert Andrew Coo, who tests a dim sum parlor's excellence by sampling three core dishes: the shumai (pork dumplings), the har gow (shrimp dumplings), and char siu bao (steamed roast pork buns).

And Brooklyn's dim sum parlors are excellent indeed — often besting eateries in Manhattan, said Coo, author of "Chop



Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States.

Diners can find authentically Chinese experiences at standouts, including Pacificana, a dazzling and delicious 55th Street restaurant that boasts great soup dumplings and delectable tripe. East Harbor Seafood Palace, a 65th Street joint which lives up to its aquatic name with its seemingly endless amount of shellfish dishes; King Star, on Eighth Avenue, where shrimp dumplings and bean curd skin rolls share top billing; and World Tong on 18th Avenue, where the chicken feet and bean-filled sesame balls reign supreme.

"If you go to a place like World Tong on Chinese New Year, it's very much the same [as it is in China]," Coo said. "There's a huge line outside. You can't move because there are so many carts in the aisles. Everyone is jostling and having a good time."

It's easy to enjoy the small plates meal — even if you've never had it before. Here are some tips for newbies who might be nervous about the Cantonese dining experience:

• Go with friends: Dim sum is served in small plates, much like tapas, so the more you plates you order the more dishes you can try.

• During the mid-morning and lunchtime rush, many dim sum parlors issue numbers to those waiting for tables. If you don't speak

**Little dumplings:** (Above) The dim sum at King Star on Eighth Avenue in Sunset Park is considered some of the best in Brooklyn. (At left) East Harbor Seafood Palace on 65th Street in Sunset Park lives up to its name with a dim sum menu packed with fish items.

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## DINING

**East Harbor Seafood Palace** (714 65th St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Oyster Heights, (718) 765-0098; **King Star** (6022 Eighth Ave. between 60th and 61st streets in Sunset Park, (718) 492-6888; **Pacificana** 1813 55th St. at Eighth Avenue in Sunset Park, (718) 871-2880; **World Tong** (6022 18th Ave. at 62nd Street in Bensonhurst, (718) 236-8118).

Cantonese (you don't), make sure you let the host or hostess know that you'll need your number to be read in English. Hover close and maintain eye contact.

• Be assertive. Ask the staffers pushing the carts to pull up the lids on all of their steamers, so you won't miss a favorite dish. If you can't find something you'd like on the carts, place an order with a waiter (the men and women in suits).

• Be sure to tip. A few bucks on the table isn't much to ask after a gargantuan feast that will run little more than \$7 per person.

## Lau Sah Bao

(egg custard bun)

This fluffy bun looks so light it might float away, but it's actually one of the heaviest dishes you'll find on the dim sum cart. This dessert bun boasts a slightly solid, slightly runny — and cloyingly sweet — egg custard made from yolks. The filling in this bread-coated treat actually contains no much sugar that it takes on a grainy, sandy texture — a dessert desert, if you will.

## Ngau pak yip

(steamed beef tripe)

This chewy dish of thinly sliced cow stomach lining is one of the tastiest items. Each rubbery morsel gives off a rich flavor that's meaty, but not gamey. It takes a while to gnaw through a single piece of these pungent offal, but each bite rewards the diner with a juicy burst of beefy perfection.

## MUSIC

### Irish up!

Put down your guitar and pick up that bouzouki! Irish folk music has joined the monthly lineup at Jalopy.

This is no "Riverdance." It's the real thing — actual Irishmen and -women singing in the classic "Sean-Nos" style and playing the traditional outleann pipes and flutes.

Jalopy is usually the place for American folk — bluegrass, jazz, country or blues. But owner Lynette Wiley said that their vision is "world traditional, not just American traditional."

Wiley has been thinking of featuring more Irish music for a while, so it was felicitous that Irish musician Mike Cosentino (pictured) moved down the block about a year ago.

Before long, Cosentino and the Wileys were planning monthly concerts. The first one is this Friday, July 31 — and they're already as popular as Guinness on St. Patrick's Day.

"We're booked into 2010!" said Wiley.

"Irish Night" at Jalopy (815 Columbia St. between Woodhull and Rapeleye streets in the Columbia Street Waterfront District, (718) 395-3214), Friday, July 31, 9 p.m. Tickets, \$10.

— Robin Riskin

## MUSIC

### Rock 'n role

Between 1962 and '64, Andy Warhol put everyone who walked into his Factory before a movie camera and told them to pose for two minutes.

Nearly 50 years later, those movies are ready for their 15 minutes of fame as underground rockers Dean and Britta — best known for being half of the great band, Luna — have set each of the silent, black-and-white "screen tests" to music.

The pair spent months watching hundreds of screen tests and reading up on Warhol's Factory and the people who called it home.

"The more I read, the more I wanted to [do this]," said Dean Wareham, the "Dean" of Dean and Britta.

Among the 15 screen tests are videos of 1960s legends Lou Reed, Nico, and Dennis Hopper, as well as some of The Factory's more anonymous visitors.

The finished product is "a multimedia experience," explained Wareham. "The film looks great on the big screen. I think it's going to be spectacular in the park."

Dean and Britta perform "13 Most Beautiful Songs for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests," at the Prospect Park band shell (enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park), Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m. For info, visit [www.brooklyn.org/celebrate](http://www.brooklyn.org/celebrate).

— Jacob Kleinman

## MUSIC

### This blows!

Daniel Smith is the Elvis Presley of the bassoon. Like the King himself, who took a then-obscure style and turned it into the world's most popular forms of music, Smith is single-handedly bringing

the obscure woodwind into its long-deserved, though long-deprived, spotlight (minus the seductive hips).

"I consider myself revolutionary," he said last week, before kicking off a weekly gig at Paper's Jazz Bar in Park Slope. "Not many people have heard the bassoon the way I play it."

You could have stopped that sentence at the word "bassoon." But Smith, who has been playing the music world's least-appreciated instrument for 45 years, is trying to change that, too, by crossing the line from classical to jazz.

He denied that the bassoon is a laughing-stock of the music world.

"Actually, it's one of the most difficult instruments to play," said Smith, whose 20th album, "Blue Bassoon," will be available next month. "Where the confusion might be coming from is that almost everybody, musician or otherwise, can't imagine the bassoon as a viable jazz instrument, which I am proving wrong."

Daniel Smith's Bassoon and Beyond at Paper's Jazz Bar (481 Fifth Ave. between 11th and 12th streets, (718) 499-2622), first Tuesday of the month, beginning Aug. 4, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

— Thomas Nocera

## Off the eaten path

Here's your guide to the weird stuff

By Ben Muesig  
The Brooklyn Paper

Dim sum ain't just dumplings. Dishes like shumai and pork buns have become commonplace at Chinese eateries around the United States, but traditional Cantonese brunch spots around Brooklyn also boast a number of less-well-known treats.

In order to prepare GO Brooklyn readers for a full dim sum experience, I investigated some of the more unusual offerings at the borough's finest parlors. Here's my in-stomached guide:

## Woo Gok

(taro croquettes)

This thing might look like a deep-fried hairball, but it tastes like deep-fried mashed potatoes. The dish starts with a mushy mass of taro — a purplish root vegetable with a slightly sweet taste. Chefs drop that mush into bubbling deep fat, leaving the taro surrounded in a crunchy, greasy layer of fried goodness that almost looks furry. Bite through the crispy exterior and you'll find a tiny pocket of savory meat nestled in the middle of the taro, like a beefy Russian nesting doll.

## Fèngzhu

(chicken feet)

If you're not a dim sum expert, eating a chicken foot isn't easy — but the reward makes it worthwhile. Picking up the slippery four-toed appendage with chopsticks is a struggle in itself, and actually nibbling between each digit is a long and arduous process. But each bit of lumpy flesh that falls free of the bone offers a delectable combination of chicken skin, cartilage and marrow! Start with the toes and work your way to the ball of the foot, spitting out any bones that are too hard to chew. Once you reach the ball — which takes some time, considering that each joint requires harder chopping than the previous knuckle — you'll find a fatty lump of pure joy. Luckily for you first timers, many Brooklyn dim sum parlors remove the talons so you won't have to worry about biting chicken toenails.

## Lau Sah Bao

(egg custard bun)

This fluffy bun looks so light it might float away, but it's actually one of the heaviest dishes you'll find on the dim sum cart. This dessert bun boasts a slightly solid, slightly runny — and cloyingly sweet — egg custard made from yolks. The filling in this bread-coated treat actually contains no much sugar that it takes on a grainy, sandy texture — a dessert desert, if you will.

## Ngau pak yip

(steamed beef tripe)

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**SATURDAY** August 1

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**THURSDAY** August 6

**A favor for you**  
They're making an offer you can't refuse. Before there was "The Sopranos," there was "The Godfather," the greatest Mob movie ever. The original screens to night, and the equally brilliant "Godfather 2" will be shown tomorrow. Both feature John Cazale as Fredo Corleone, who really did break all our hearts when he spilled the beans to Hyman Roth.

**Deer men**  
A week of unbelievable films begins tonight with "The Deer Hunter." Michael Cimino's flawless classic about a bunch of backwoodsmen who go to Vietnam and return to a different world. It not only features a great Russian roulette scene, a great job by Robert DeNiro, but also Christopher Walken and the late and great John Cazale (pictured).

**Live forever**  
Plenty of movies can claim to be cultural watershed moments, but in the 1980s, that movie was "Fame," which not only encouraged everyone to wear leg-warmers, but also dance on cars in the street. But you know what? It's still a classic, even if Irene Cara has virtually disappeared. Sad.

**Let it rain!**  
It's "Purple Rain" as you've never seen (or heard) it before, thanks to this Collaborate Brooklyn sing-along event. Grab a patch of grass around the Prospect Park band shell, and watch a rags-to-riches-story starring Prince while singing the lyrics (which will, thankfully, be flashed on screen for those who were raised in a box and don't know them). It's certain to become an instant cult classic. Wear something frilly.

**Think Pink**  
Inspector Clouseau is back! Follow the beloved detective as he bumbles his way through the fictional country of Lugash in search of the Pink Panther diamond and bumble his way out of near-death situations orchestrated by his arch-nemesis "The Phantom" in "The Return of the Pink Panther," screening in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park.

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI, JULY 31**

**ART, FUSEWORKS EXHIBIT:** A show of editorial artwork as a field of discourse in itself. Free. 9 am-1 pm. Open Source Gallery (253 17th St. at Fifth Avenue in Greenwood Heights). www.opensourcegallery.org.

**GENDER EQUALITY FESTIVAL:** Entertainment, activities, information, free food, and prizes. This year's theme: "Brooklyn, We Go Hard!" Free. 10 am-3 pm. Cuyler Gore Park (Corner of Greene Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene). www.gengc.org.

**FILM, "THE DEER HUNTER":** Part of BAM's Rediscovering John Cazale. \$11. 3 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene). (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.

**MUSIC, THE ROYAL FAMILY:** With John Scofield, Christian Scott, Ivan Neville and Dumpstaphunk. \$3 (suggested). 7 pm. Prospect Park band shell (Enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park). www.brooklynonline.org/collaborate.

**SWING DANCE PARTY:** Lesson first, then party. \$20. 7-9:30 pm. Dinerwave (43 Fourth Ave. at Dean Street in Park Slope). (718) 522-4494. www.dancerwave.org.

**THEATER, "KING LEAR":** \$18 (seniors and children \$15). 8 pm. Gallery Pavers (199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope). (212) 352-3101. gallerypavers.com.

**MUSIC, HARVEST LOCALLY:** A showcase of local musical talent held by Jeff Brecht, Alex Maxwell, artistic coordinator. \$5 (\$3 students). 8 pm. Tilla's (248 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene). (718) 783-0453. www.tillasbrooklyn.com.

**MUSIC, MORTON SUBOTNICK:** \$15. 8:30 pm. Issue Project Room (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Greenway). (718) 330-0313. www.issueprojectroom.org.

**FIREWORKS:** Free. 9:30 pm. Boardwalk (Surf Avenue and W. 12th Street in Coney Island). www.coneyislandguide.com.

**SAT, AUG. 1**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MUSEUM ON WHEELS:** The nature and maritime Enclave Mobile Exhibits, eco-cruises, fishing, touch tank, movies, refreshments, music, nature at the Beach Series. Free. 11 am. Vantage Point Park (Colley and Fern Streets in Red Hook). (347) 228-5820. www.urbandiversions.com.

**INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING:** Free. Noon. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park). (718) 287-3400. www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

**TOUR, GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY**

**AT TWILIGHT:** Led by Big Onion Walking Tours. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 5 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park). (212) 439-1090. www.bigonion.com.

**PERFORMANCE**

**THEATER, "KING LEAR":** 2 pm. See Friday, July 31.

**THEATER, "THE SECOND PIPE OF DESIRE":** A staged reading of David Miller's new play. Free. 7 pm. Old Store House (136 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope). (718) 768-3195. www.artisticinspiration.org.

**FILM, ANDY WARHOL'S SCREEN**

**TESTS WITH MUSIC BY DEAN & BRITTA:** Duo performs their songs. \$3 (suggested). 7:30 pm. Prospect Park band shell (Enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park). www.brooklynonline.org/collaborate.

**MUSIC, THE FORMS, PRETTY & NICE AND THE VALLEY ARENA:** Between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Greenway. (718) 355-3388. www.tiffelibrary.com.

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**LEWIS AVENUE FLEA MARKET:** Free. 9 am-6 pm. Lewis Avenue and Ocean streets in Bedford.

**CIVIC CALENDAR**

**MON, AUG. 3**  
Candidates debate. Would-be controllers and public advocates will debate. 6 pm. St. Francis College (180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 875-1000.

**TUES, AUG. 4**  
Night Out Against Crime. Block party presented by the 68th Precinct. Free food, entertainment, and prizes. 6 pm. Free. (Shore Road at 79th Street in Bay Ridge). (718) 307-7870.

**THURS, AUG. 6**  
Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods. Atlantic Yards informational meeting. 7:30 pm. Rondale Center (85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene). (718) 596-5443. www.councilofbrooklyn-neighborhoods.org.

**Narrows Community Theater.** Monthly meeting. 8 pm. Shore Hill Senior Center community room (9000 Shore Rd. at 91st Street in Bay Ridge). (718) 482-3173.

**THURS, AUG. 6**  
Night Out Against Crime. Parade presented by the 78th Precinct. Free food, entertainment, and prizes. 6 pm. Free. (Fifth Avenue and Sterling Place to Grand Army Plaza in Midtown West). To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@logical.com

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**PUBLISHER** Cella Weinroth (718) 260-4503

**EDITOR** Gersh Kuntzman (718) 260-4504

**SENIOR EDITOR/PROD MGR** Vince DiMichele (718) 260-4508

**EDITORIAL STAFF** Mike McLaughlin (718) 260-4506 Ben Mooney (718) 260-4505

**INTERNS:** Beas Adler, Janel Forester, Shannon Gais, Andy Hoffman, Josiah Kienemann, Thomas Noziera, Robin Rubin, Robert Vora

**ADVERTISING STAFF** DISPLAY ADVERTISING SALES Eric Ross (718) 260-4502 Hank Rooney (718) 260-4590 Jay Pelc (718) 260-2510 Andrew Mark (718) 260-2578 Homer Stewart (718) 260-8339 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SALES Adam G. Gieny (718) 260-4521

**FRONT OFFICE** Lisa Malwitz (718) 260-2594

**PRODUCTION STAFF** ART DIRECTOR Leah Misch (718) 260-4510 WEB DESIGNER Sylvan Migdal (718) 260-4509 PUBLISHER EMERITUS Ed Weinroth

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# 'Lear' is king

Gallery Players version of the Bard's bloody classic is one raucous rumble

**The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension**  
By Mike McLaughlin

**T**he Tragedy of King Lear by the Gallery Players is insanely good. The decorated Park Slope troupe pours its heart out on stage in Shakespeare's masterpiece of the unloving king and his coming-of-age, wringing wonderful performances from the cast in the ultimate play about the breakdown of the nuclear family. Yes, the Players are the latest theater company to catch a case of summertime Shakespeare fever, and — oh, doctor — theater fans should pay a house call to the 14th Street playhouse for this limited run, through Aug. 2. Dominic Cuskern portrayed Lear.



Royal request: King Lear (Dominic Cuskern) is amused by his Fool (Andrew Firda) in the Gallery Players' version of "King Lear," running through Aug. 2.

the toppled monarch, with appropriate levels of manic, chastened entitlement and regret. John Blaylock as Kent and Elliott Mayer as Gloucester, are worth their weight in gold as Lear's loyal noblemen. Andrew Firda, the gangly Fool, cut through the gravity of the plot with satisfying moments of comic relief. Accolades for the Players were assured by the near-flawless first half. The actors fired on all cylinders from the opening scene — Lear's dispensation of his kingdom among his daughters — and were in synch until the intermission. After the break, however, it must be admitted that the intensity flagged. What should have been the play's climax — the gruesome blinding of Gloucester — was outshone by earlier scenes, like Lear's stark raving agony in the storm outside his castle. Likewise, the virtually blood-less bloodletting in the later scenes that's par for the course in the Bard's tragedies plodded towards the inevitable conclusion of a stage lined with corpses. Frankly, the death could hardly come fast enough for some of the writhing characters. Overall, "King Lear" is very good and has extended periods of brilliance. The Tragedy of King Lear at the Gallery Players (199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 852-0617) through Aug. 2. Tickets, \$15.

## Talk about funny money!

By Robin Riskin

**S**eeing Bernie Madoff sentenced to 150 years in prison isn't the only thing that can make us smile during these difficult economic times. There's also "Tally Ho!" Theater for the New City's rip-roaring musical about two seemingly financially stable men who turn out to be anything but when the market crashes. And not just the market — everything in this production seems to crash, from the punches to the unwanted houseguests to the pie thrown into various faces. Eventually, the spoof takes a journey into the New Deal era, with a musical number by Miss Toxic Assets. Sure, the market may be bad, but the good news is that this play is free. "Tally Ho!" has performances on Aug. 9 at Herbert Von King Park in Bedford Stuyvesant and on Aug. 22 in Prospect Park. For info, visit [www.theaterforthenewcity.net](http://www.theaterforthenewcity.net). **Walt Whitman returns** Brooklyn is Walt Whitman town this summer. The Artful Conspirators are put-



ting on two free productions about the famed poet at Park Slope's Old Stone House. The first, David Miller's "The Second Pipe of Desire," is about two former allies split apart by the Civil War. The second, Dano Madden's "Whitman's Brooklyn," recounts the writer's life and work in a more standard format. "The Second Pipe of Desire" will be performed on Aug. 1 and 8. "Whitman's Brooklyn" will be on Aug. 9 and 16. For info, visit [www.artfulconspirators.org](http://www.artfulconspirators.org).

**Crash and learn:** The financial spoof "Tally Ho!" features Primy Rivera, Mark Markante and Michael-David Gordon in a send-up of our economic malaise. **Clowns and more** Open Variety Night will be wild at Galapagos Art Space in DUMBO. On Aug. 3, there will be tap-danc-



Crash and learn: The financial spoof "Tally Ho!" features Primy Rivera, Mark Markante and Michael-David Gordon in a send-up of our economic malaise.

ing bears, Kung Fu juggling, sword swallowers, comedy and aerialists suspended above your drinks. And if you want to be performing on stage rather than just watching the action, e-mail variety@galapagosartspace.com, with "Open Variety" as the subject line. For info, visit [www.galapagosartspace.com](http://www.galapagosartspace.com).

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# 'Rain' man

## How a Park Slope PR guy rallied for Prince's 1984 landmark film

By Jacob Kleinman  
for The Brooklyn Paper

One of the most exciting events of the summer is a participatory screening of Prince's classic film "Purple Rain" in Prospect Park — but it never could have happened without one Park Slope man.

Howard Bloom saved Prince's self-produced, 1984 film from the dustbin of history with an unprecedented one-man crusade that

### CINEMA

"Purple Rain Sing-A-Long," part of Celebrate Brooklyn at the Prospect Park band shell (enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park), Aug. 6. For info, visit [www.brooklynonline.org/celebrate](http://www.brooklynonline.org/celebrate).

comes into full fruition with the sing-along presentation at Celebrate Brooklyn on Aug. 6. "Prince made a film his way,

which was outrageous at the time because people didn't just come from music to film in the 1980s," said Bloom, who was then a music industry PR man — in theory the opposite of the kind of free spirit who would've been attracted to a film as weird and non-commercial as "Purple Rain."

But Bloom was Prince's loyal subject long before the singer went to the big screen. Back in 1981, when Bloom was busy working with Earth, Wind and



'Purple' prose: Park Slope Howard Bloom may be the second most important person in the making of Prince's classic, "Purple Rain," which will screen as part of Celebrate Brooklyn on Aug. 6.

Fire (remember them?), Bloom finally heard Prince's eponymous 1979 album — which went platinum.

"It was phenomenal," said Bloom. "A kid no one had ever

heard of had come out with an album no one had ever heard of and had gone platinum. It caught my attention, so I handed him as a client."

One day, Bloom was sitting

in his Manhattan office when Prince's manager Bob Cavallo called with some horrible news: The suits in L.A. were grumbling about "Purple Rain."

"You've got to be in Los Angeles at 11 am tomorrow," Cavallo told Bloom. "We're showing it at Warner Brothers tomorrow!"

Bloom arrived just in time to take part in the first-ever full screening of "Purple Rain." The lights went down, the film started, and two hours later doves weren't the only thing that had cried.

"I didn't want the lights to go up 'because everyone would see the tears," said Bloom. "The film went through my emotional system."

The suits remained unsatisfied — so Bloom put on the PR spin of the century.

"I got pissed off," Bloom said. "Everyone was saying it wasn't a movie."

So he got up and made a speech in which he used terms like "cultural milestone," "artistic landmark," and "genius."

"Also said that 'killing 'Purple Rain' would be a sin against art,'" said Bloom, who now spends every afternoon at the Tei Lounge on Union Street in Park Slope writing his latest non-fiction tome, "The Genius of the Beast: A Radical Revision of Capitalism."

"Kids said 'Thank you, thank you saved 'Purple Rain.''" said Bloom, whose other books include "How Accidentally Started the 80s," which argues that he was at least five years ahead of the sex, drugs and rock and roll curve. "They tell me, 'It's the ultimate make-out movie.'"

So on Aug. 6, while the teenagers are going at it, and their parents are singing along, Howard Bloom will be miles away typing away at yet another book at the Tei Lounge. He doesn't need to take part in the "Purple Rain" fun; he's seen the movie before.

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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

### SUN, AUG. 2

#### PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "KING LEAR": 3 pm. See Friday, July 31.

#### SALES AND MARKETS

SUPA FLEA MARKET: Free. 7 am-4 pm. CUPH Church Notre Dame Hall (545 60th St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Sunset Park, (P17) 312-9855), www.eco.org.

#### OUTDOOR ART SHOW AND SALE

Free. 11 am-4 pm. Narrows Botanical Garden (Shore Road and Bay Ridge Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-9848), www.narrows.org.

#### ART, SLIGHTLY IN SEINE EXHIBIT

See Saturday, Aug. 1.

#### ARTISTS AND FLEAS

See Saturday, Aug. 1.

#### FARMERS MARKET

Free. 11 am-3 pm. J.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street in Prospect Park), Aug. 6. For info, visit [www.brooklynonline.org/celebrate](http://www.brooklynonline.org/celebrate).

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# Ringling round the rosy

## Cole Brothers trots out its circus to compete with Boom-a-ning

By Jared Foretek  
for the Brooklyn Paper

Cole Brothers bills its new production as the "Circus of the Stars," but this better-than-average cavalcade only reached the moon.

Yes, some acts garnered wonder and amazement, but too many induced yawns.

The show's first act — that old motorcycle "Globe of Death" routine — was undoubtedly one of the best. Watching a cyclist ride around the inside of the cage at high speeds was exciting enough, but then two more riders entered the cage and took off.

Audience members — of all ages — were justifiably awestruck.

But "Circus of the Stars" couldn't ride that moto-motomotion. The death-defying riders were followed by some sumo-wrestling downs, whose slapstick comedy was a drag that had me wishing someone locked them into an actual "Globe of Death."

The show's animals, though, were a blast. I never knew thought through hoops and over hurdles could be so entertaining



**WIRE ROOM:** Colombia's Topastra Troupe (above) are the highlight of the Cole Brothers circus, now through Aug. 2 at Aviator Sports. Elephants (right) and Svetlana (far left) also appear.



(perhaps I don't get out enough). And despite my well-documented refined taste in comedy, I also couldn't help but chuckle at the sight of one of the pups riding a pony around the ring.

The show's three elephants also got some hearty laughs from children and parents alike as they stood and sat on stools, piggy-backed on one another and rolled over on command.

But not all the animals were great. Synchronized canes? That act was so boring that wouldn't even wind up on the unedited DVD of the Ringling Brothers' super-sized (and super-expensive) show now going on in Coney Island.

Some of the humans picked up the slack, though. The seven-man tightrope-walking pyramid was incredible, and the gypsycoptic "Wheel

of Destiny" was one of the coolest things I've seen in a long time. But the rest of the Homo sapiens were absolutely Neanderthals of entertainment. Juggling bowling pins? I've seen better on YouTube. Next time, let's see some torches. Or some knives!

And where was the trapeze act? Can a spectacle cavalcade itself circus without high-flying action? But I must be a kid at heart be-

cause when left the Aviator sports complex, I had a smile on my face, happy in the knowledge that one of the world's oldest forms of family entertainment could still impress in an age of hi-screen TV, viral videos, and octomoms.

"Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars" at Aviator Sports (3600 Flatbush Ave. between Avenue U and the Belt Parkway, (800) 796-5272) through Aug. 2. Tickets, \$12-\$17.

## The Brooklyn Paper

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# OSFO is no mere camp follower

When the Oh So Feisty One told Smartnom that she didn't want to go to sleepaway camp this summer, Smartnom wasn't all that surprised.

OSFO had already endured two sleepaway summers — and lived to tell the tale. The first camp was, Smartnom now admits, a tad too rustic. It was the kind of place that Smartnom might have liked as a girl, so she thought it would be a life-changing experience for OSFO.

Transformational.

It was an all-girls camp in Vermont with wilderness training and bunk beds that were basically lean-tos (no windows, no doors). Suffice it to say, they told parents to pack mosquito netting.

Mosquito netting. Get the picture?

Oh, and it was a politically progressive, feminist camp with a daily Quaker meeting. Smartnom was excited for the spiritual enlightenment that would arise out of a summer like this.

During those two weeks, Smartnom got not one let-



By Louise Crawford

ter from her child. She worried. She stressed. She wondered if she had been killed by a hand of mosquitoes.

When OSFO got off the bus in Manhattan after two rainy, midweek weeks at camp, Smartnom could tell that her experience was less than stellar.

"We'll talk about it later," OSFO whispered as they got into a car service to take them back to Brooklyn.

In the days that followed, Smartnom heard more and more about this special camp. According to OSFO, the food was "delicious," the lefty folk songs were "fun to sing" (Mom, did you ever hear of Kumbya?) and the backpacking adventures on the Appalachian Trail was "a highlight."

So what was wrong with the place? Smartnom isn't sure. But she wasn't crazy about her

bunkmates and the girl she met at camp from Cobble Hill was unbearably homesick and that can be contagious. There was also that bear-sighting that scared her mind.

All in all, it was not OSFO's kind of place — and she would not be returning the next summer.

The next year, a friend suggested a well-regarded YMCA camp in Rhode Island. OSFO checked the pictures on the Web site to make sure the bunks had windows and doors.

Window and doors: Check.

It wasn't a feminist place or politically progressive. It didn't have a spiritual component like that Quaker meeting thing that gets Smartnom and other parents so excited.

In short, it was your basic fun camp with your basic fun activities: swimming, dogbeach, tie-dye and archery. And there was other fun stuff, too like color war, dress-up days, jacks and bunk-bunk games.

Most important, the girls in OSFO's bunk bonded, and nights were like an endless slumber party complete with spider sightings, shadow puppets and sharing someone's do Cap'n Crunch.

So why didn't she want to go back? Smartnom isn't really sure. A good camp friend couldn't go the same weeks as OSFO so that might have put a damper on it.

The Park Slope buddy who she went to camp with last year chose a different camp this year. Maybe that was the problem.

Or maybe she just forgot how much fun she had last year. Twelve months is a long time.

Whatever the reason, Smartnom wasn't going to force her little baby to go anywhere she didn't want to go.

No, no, no. Except for one huge problem. Smartnom was so eager for OSFO to return to that camp she'd paid for the camp in full. In December.

Smartnom was stressing. That was \$1,200 bucks down the drain — money out the window if she didn't talk her daughter into camp.

And what about Smartnom's solo writing week on Block Island, the week in which that was contingent on OSFO being at camp? Surely, Smartnom couldn't go away by herself if her daughter was hanging out with nothing to do in Brooklyn.

Well, Smartnom tried and tried and tried but she couldn't get her feisty daughter to change her mind. The more she told her that she was going to be oh so bored, the more determined OSFO was to prove her wrong.

So Smartnom did what any smart mom would do. She called the camp and very nicely asked for her money back. And guess what? She didn't get it all back. But she did get half back and the other half is a campership for some kid who really wants to go to camp, but can't afford to pay full tuition.

Smartnom thought the camp director was unbelievably nice and reasonable. She thanked him profusely.

So the matter was settled except for one itty bitty problem. What was OSFO going to do while Smartnom was in Block Island for eight days? She came along.

And that, dear readers, is the topic of next week's column.

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## FAMILY CALENDAR



Father Goose will perform at the Brooklyn Children's Museum on July 31.

**FRI, JULY 31**  
11:30 am Storytime, \$2.50  
Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between 11th and 12th streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 723-9710, themovieproject.org)

**SUN, AUG. 2**  
12:30 and 2:30 pm "Aladdin" - See Saturday, Aug. 1.  
1 pm Nature Crafts. See Saturday, Aug. 1.  
1:30 pm Science Power Hour. See Saturday, Aug. 1.

2 pm Cole Bros. See Saturday, Aug. 1.  
2 pm Story hour. See Saturday, Aug. 1.

2 pm Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus A Ring, One-ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10-\$65. West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (201) 527-8900, www.ringling.com

2 pm Animal tales, folk tales, games, costumes, crafts, skulls and skins for children aged 4-11. Free. Prospect Park Children's Center (Corner of Flatbush Ave. and Empire Blvd. in Prospect Park, (718) 438-7700, www.hearstbrooklyn.org/childrenscenter)

2 pm Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars. This Ringling rival back for a second year in Brooklyn, 317 (512 children). Aviator Sports (3600 Flatbush Ave. at Ford Bennett Field in Canarsie, (800) 796-5272, www.gothecircus.com)

6:15 pm Family movie night. Free. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

8:30 pm Reggae artist Father Goose. Free. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org)

**SAT, AUG. 1**  
10:30 am Ringling Brothers. See Friday, July 31.

11:30 am Catch and release fish. Free. Brooklyn Bridge Park (1 Main St. at Plymouth Street in DUMBO, (718) 802-5603, www.brooklynbridgepark.org)

12:30 pm Puppet show, "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." \$8 (\$7 children). Puppetworks (338 South Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391, www.puppetworks.org)

1 pm Nature Crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 827-3400, www.prospectpark.org/audubon)

1:30 pm Science Power Hour. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above).

2 pm Story hour. Free. Imagination Playground (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, www.imaginationplayground.com)

2 pm Ringling Brothers. See Friday, July 31.

**SAT, AUG. 8**  
10:30 am Ringling Brothers. See Friday, July 31.

12:30 pm "Aladdin." See Saturday, Aug. 1.

1 pm Nature Crafts. See Saturday, Aug. 1.

1:30 pm Science Power Hour. See Saturday, Aug. 1.

4 pm Putnam Kids Pointe Playground Tour. Part of the Carroll Park Kids' Concert Series.

\$2. Carroll Park (Carroll Street and Smith Street in Carroll Gardens, www.carrollparkbrooklyn.org)

To list your event, visit BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit

## CONEY...

Continued from page 1

"The best days of Coney Island are past unless we do something, and here we are doing something," Bloomberg said after the vote. "Hopefully, we are bringing an end to an era of uncertainty, this going to be Disney World? No, of course not. That's not what it's meant to be."

To secure the legislative victory, the mayor had to win over Stitt's ally, Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island), who had long raised doubts about Bloomberg's untested proposal to map part of Coney Island's amusement zone as parkland — and de-map an adjacent park to allow for housing and other development.

Recchia's opposition faded after Bloomberg agreed to fund a bevy of neighborhood improvements in the councilman's district, including \$30 million to renovate the emergency room of Coney Island Hospital, \$5.5 million to build a new gym at an elementary school and money

shopping and other covered tourist attractions.

Neither side would discuss the negotiations.

Wednesday's historic Council vote comes as the fabled People's Playground is vastly different — and less exciting — place than it was when Bloomberg took office in 2002. Astroland amusement park closed last year and several smaller attractions, like batting cages and go-karts, shut their doors.

On the bright side, the B&B Carousel was saved by Bloomberg and is currently being refurbished.

Despite the Council's overwhelming support, opponents still decry the inclusion of 27-story hotels in the amusement area, saying that such development would ruin the area's honky-tonk ambience.

Recchia and Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) said that only two such lodges would be included, though that depends on the outcome of the talks with Stitt and other landowners.

Lawmakers have also raised the hopes of advocates by suggesting that

the size of the nine-and-a-half-acre area for outdoor rides could be increased.

Critics began planning Coney Island's death-watch.

"This is a sad day for New York City," said Joan Rivers, a spokeswoman for Sir Sir Coney Island. "As a result of this rezoning, people across the city and around the world who love Coney Island could see its historic amusement district shrunk, covered up and blocked off with high-rises, its history destroyed and its potential squandered all for nothing."

"We deeply regret that volunteers and park staff ultimately shouldered the responsibility of cleaning up after our event," it said.

"MIH Ventures sincerely apologizes to the community for the condition of the Park on

## REBEL...

Continued from page 1

I'm going to fly my flag," said Mike, who has also mounted two much smaller American flags on his terrace.

That's his right — but that doesn't mean that Brooklynites are happy about it.

"This is America, but personally, I think it's really sad," said a Bay Ridge resident who gave his name as Malik. "I thought that we got past the whole slavery thing when it was abolished."

Monday morning. We are currently working with Prospect Park to ensure that the park remains a clean and enjoyable place for all, as we are members of the Brooklyn community who use and appreciate Prospect Park.

"To show our support for Prospect Park and our respect for the community, MIH Ventures, in conjunction with Prospect Park, is organizing a volunteer clean-up effort to take place early this fall."

MIH Ventures worked out the agreement with Prospect Park Administrator Tipper Thomas.

"Tipper was very happy to actually speak to the organizers and work this out," said Eugene Porter, a spokesman for the Prospect Park Alliance.

requested anonymity. "We're free to fly any flag we want, but I'm not crazy about it. We won't be the only one. You should fly the American flag."

"It makes me feel angry and extremely uncomfortable," she added.

This isn't the first time the so-called "Stars and Bars" has caused uproar.

Politicians and pundits battled in 2000 over the display of a rebel flag atop the South Carolina Capitol.

The banner was removed from the roof and placed in a memorial to Confederate soldiers on Statehouse grounds.

And as recently as April, controversy erupted in Alabama cemetery regarding the placement and subsequent removal of Confederate flags.

But controversy about the Dixie banner has hardly reached Brooklyn.

In fact, the last time a Confederate flag riled up many Brooklynites was when a Union Navy captain unfurled a captured Dixie banner in



South Williamsburg school in 1894, a gesture that "was greeted not with a rebel yell, but with a vigorous Northern

his from nearly 2,000 public school children," according to the New York Times, a Manhattan newspaper.

Considering that the Bay Ridge Rebel flag is on private property, even those who don't agree with the symbol told The Brooklyn Paper they were left in the same position as former President James Buchanan, who did little to stop the rise of the Confederacy.

"It's their home. People are going to make their own decisions," said Danielle Ayala, of Sunset Park. "At the end of the day, what can you do?"

## OUR OPINION

## The true Coney phony

Now you can add more than \$40 million to the hundreds of millions that city taxpayers will back up so that Mayor Bloomberg can pretend that he is doing something to "save" Coney Island.

The new fee comes in the form of a payoff to Coney Island's City Councilman Domenico Recchia, who had long opposed the mayor's scheme to rezone the current amusement area to allow for a wider array of all-year entertainment, plus housing, hotels and retail shops.

We shared Recchia's opposition to the city plan, mostly because it calls for the city to spend more than \$100 million to acquire land from Joe Sitt, who also says he wants to turn Coney Island into a 24-7-365, Vegas-style entertainment, hotel and retail complex.

The main difference between Sitt's plan and Bloomberg's is that Sitt owns the land in question. City officials have long said that they don't trust Sitt to do the job right, but the city controls its own zoning and, as such, has ultimate con-

trol over what Sitt could build there.

We have long argued that rather than spending more than \$100 million to buy out Sitt, the mayor should have used his zoning leverage to broker a better deal with Sitt — a deal that would then go through the normal public-review process.

Then there would be no need for the current flaws in the mayor's plan: huge land acquisition costs, bringing in outside amusement developers, or needing the approval of sclerotic Albany so the city can demop some existing parkland near KeySpan Park for housing.

For months, Recchia shared our apprehensions about the mayor's rezoning scheme. But this week, he got his payoff. As Mike McLaughlin reported on BrooklynPaper.com on Wednesday, Recchia gave his vote the mayor after receiving a promise of a new emergency room at Coney Island Hospital, a new gym for a nearby elementary school and a new deluxe shark tank for the New York Aquarium.

Make no mistake: We are not opposing a better hospital (\$30 million), a school

gym (\$5.5 million) or a fancy new home for our dorsal-finned friends (millions unclear). But if these improvements are truly necessary for Coney Island, they should be made as part of the normal budgeting process, not doled out simply to get the vote of an influential councilmember.

Once Recchia was on board, the full Council rolled over, voting 44-2 to back the mayor's rezoning scheme.

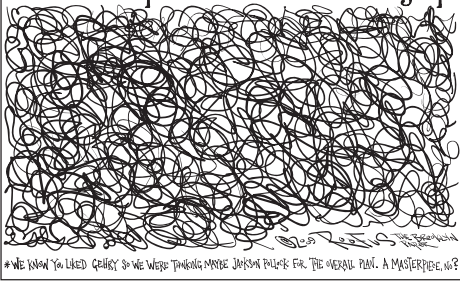
The vote followed a disquieting pattern when large development projects are concerned — local lawmakers point out flaws and are then bought off.

But buying off Recchia and winning a rezoning in Coney Island has accomplished nothing in the immediate term: there are still no guarantees that the new zoning will actually bear fruit. Only developers and landowners can do that.

So if the city is going to play "Let's Make a Deal" with our valuable public resources, why not make the deals with the people who actually have some control? In Coney Island, that's Joe Sitt, not Domenico Recchia.

## ALL DRAWN OUT

There has recently been some confusion as to the new Atlantic Yards plan. This should clear things up.\*



\*WE KNOW 'A' USED 'CELEST' & WE WERE THINKING MORE 'JASON' PULKS FOR THE 'DEAD' PLAN. A MISTAKE, WE?

## LETTERS

## A pol offers his trash solution

To the editor,  
Prospect Park is a mess, but the solutions are easier than they seem. I have become aware of the situation through talking with FIDO members, monitoring the disheartening photos on the respectspack.com Website, and reading The Brooklyn Paper's excellent coverage of the matter ("Trash talk" Parks Dept. going after party poopers," June 24). I love Prospect Park and spend a lot of time there with my son, Wolf. My wife Kelly is a teacher at the Audubon Center and she sees firsthand the effects of trash on the wildlife and natural settings of Prospect Park. Kelly does her best to teach children how to re-

spect the park and clean up after themselves. Now we have to do a better job teaching adults how to do the same.

Everyone wants a clean park, even those careless few who contribute to its current state. We need to educate people to do the right thing — and to enable enforcement so people know there are consequences.

The Sanitation and Parks departments should aggressively educate people and enforce existing rules regarding trash disposal. Uniformed enforcement agents should make the rounds on weekends distributing copies of the rules and making it clear they will be enforced and fines will be levied. If fines are actually levied, this program could pay for itself.

If elected to the City Council, I will provide the resolve and leadership needed to clean up Prospect Park, that so all of Brooklyn can enjoy our beautiful green space.

**Josh Skaller, Park Slope**  
The writer is a Democratic candidate for the 39th Council District, which covers Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Gowanus and Carroll Gardens.

## Stop dumping

To the editor,  
Regarding your recent story about the Santeria sacrifice near Green-Wood Cemetery ("Pig root" Porky animal sacrifice dumped at cemetery gate," July 24), Ben Muessig did his usual good job of reporting this respectfully observed bizarre incident, but there is a larger issue on the streets surrounding Green-Wood Cemetery: dumping.

On July 14, a group of 32 residents met with the 72nd Precinct and Community Board 7 to discuss this major quality of life issue in addition to long-standing criminal-related issues due to "park and party" and dumping.

Our "unique blocks" are a haven from illicit activity, including a large amount of dumping due to homes located only on one side of the street. The new and old-time residents are fed up and have formed the 23rd Street Neighbors Association to combat illegal dumping and other quality of life issues.

We look forward to working with our neighbors, Green-Wood, the 72nd Precinct, Con Ed, the city and CB7 to improve the conditions on our blocks to make our

"uniqueness" a reason to move here, not dump here: garbage, remnants of religious practices or otherwise.

We hope The Brooklyn Paper supports us with continued coverage as we work to improve our neighborhood.

**Aaron Brashear, Green-Wood Heights**  
The writer is "The Mayor of Green-Wood Heights."

## Pajama game

To the editor,  
I like pajamas for the summer. I like short sleeve and long leg pajamas. I have only seen short sleeve/short leg sets at the stores near my home. The company I used to buy was Munsingwear. I know you have a computer at the newspaper where you work. Could you please give me the address of the company? I'd appreciate it. I don't know if another company owns them.

**Pat Vovoro, Bay Ridge**  
Editor's note: We don't want to start a trend, but we feel for Pat, so we offer this information at a service to our loyal reader. Munsingwear is owned by Perry Ellis International. The nearest Munsingwear store is at 1077 Avenue of the Americas, at

41st Street, in Manhattan. For information on products and availability, contact them using either the telephone machine, by calling (212) 876-0009, or e-mail fashion@pen and paper, by writing to 42 W. 59th Street, New York, NY 10018.

## Blame Bruce

To the editor,  
It's official! Bruce Ratner gets to buy the Atlantic Rail Yards from the MTA for a paltry final price of \$20 million ("MTA full board rubber-stamps Ratner bailout," June 24).

The MTA originally sold the rail yards (appraised at well over \$200 million) to Ratner for \$100 million, ignoring a rival bid for \$150 million.

I'm aware that he still "owes" the other \$80 million (with payments spread over 20 years so he can pay with inflation-cheapened dollars), but do you really expect the MTA to try to collect the \$80-million balance from their "improvised" buddy Ratner?

So Ratner finally gets the yards for under 10 cents on the dollar! Thank the MTA and Ratner every time you shell out \$2.25 for a subway or bus ride!

**Martin Sticht, Boerum Hill**

## WEB CHATTER

## Readers react to Yards hearing

Our online coverage of last week's Atlantic Yards informational hearing ("Atlantic antics! Yards hearing goes haywire!" July 23) did what most Atlantic Yards stories do: provoke lots of reaction. Here's a fair synopsis:

**BUILD IT NOW!!!!!!**  
More jobs = better economy = better lives. But those who don't want it built are mostly well-off middle and upper class.

**Blazin B, Brooklyn**  
You understand that the plan as currently designed is to produce luxury condos and a place of entertainment (a basketball arena) for the "well-off middle and upper class." The jobs will be minimum wage-selling wine and sushi to 28-year-old bankers from Goldman Sachs. You get that, right?

Opponents want smart development that engages the community in the development and building process and in turn accrues back to the community substantial long-term benefits. Had the MTA accepted the Exattel bid (\$50 million higher than Ratner's), this

project would have been well on the way to completion and could have been an engine of growth in a bad economy.

Have you reviewed the Ex-tell bid? Or are you a sheep just blindly accepting that what Ratner and Markowitz are feeding you must be true? Wake up — it's B.S.

**Rob, Park Slope**  
I'm so surprised that a gigantic, monolithic development is stalling. If the alternate proposal — running a standard street grid through the property and using individual lots to build smaller mixed-use buildings — had been chosen, it would be a better development than the monolithic 1970s throwback towers-in-the-park design they came up with.

**Urb, Outside**  
Excuse me if I don't have much sympathy for the pro-Ratner thugs. But I will give them credit for successfully changing the terms of the debate. They state clearly that they don't want any more debate about the project, so they disrupt hearings and information sessions, and reporters swallow their bait.

**Raul, Prospect Heights**

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## The Brooklyn Paper

## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION, File Number: 09-2196, Division 03. In Re: The Estate of: IGNATZ STERNER, Deceased. NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO PUTATIVE SPOUSE: TO: Erzsébet Bernese Nagy Peti, 1146 56th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219 (last known address). The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT: The Personal Representative of this Estate has received information indicating that you may be the surviving spouse of the Decedent, Ignatz Sterner. The Personal Representative has made a thorough and diligent search of the public records, and has been unable to locate any record of such a marriage or locate you to serve Notice of Administration upon you. By Order of the above-referenced Court, this Notice is being published in your last known county and state of residence and in Miami-Dade County, Florida, the county and state of the Decedent's last known residence. Ignatz Sterner died on May 22, 2007. If you believe you have any legal claim or demand against the Estate of Ignatz Sterner, you must file same with this Court within thirty (30) days after the date of first publication of this notice. If you do not respond to this Notice, the Personal Representative may conclude no marriage between Ignatz Sterner and Erzsébet Bernese Nagy Peti ever occurred. A CLAIM, DEMAND, AND OBJECTIONS, NOT SO FILED, AND NOT ALREADY BARRED BY STATUTE, WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. The date of the first publication of this Notice is 07/31/2009. Attorney For Personal Representative: David M. Vogel BEHAR, GUTT & GLAZIER, P.A. 2999 N.E. 191st Street, Fifth Floor, Aventura, Florida 33180. Personal Representative: Dennis Steiner 158 Willow Wood Drive, Okaloosa, FL 32569.

NOTICE OF SALE: SUPREME COURT, KINGS COUNTY, NYCTCL 1999-1, TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS COLLATORAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, PETIT vs. 392 VAN BRUNT ST. REALTY CORP., et al, Defts. Index # 8292/04. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered June 14, 2009, I will sell at public auction in Room 261 of the United States Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. prem. 1/4 395 Van Brunt St., Brooklyn, NY aka Block 598, Lot 5. Said property is located on the north-easterly side of Van Brunt St., 80 ft. northeasterly from the easterly corner formed by the intersection of Van Brunt and Van Dyke Sts., being a plot 20 ft. x 90 ft. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$12,980.67 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. ERNEST BARTOL, Referee. SHAPRO & DICAPPO, LLP. Attys for Pet. 777 Lexington Rd., Commack, NY 06314-2255. File No. 04-50374-475434

The NYC Board of Standards and Appeals has scheduled a public hearing on the following application: Variance (§22-10) to permit a cellar and three-story, five-family residential building on a vacant lot. The proposed structure to section 42-00 (use M1-1). Address: 1978 Atlantic Avenue, Southern section of Atlantic St. Avenue, 100 feet west of the intersection of Atlantic and Ralph Street, 1329, Lot 39, Borough of Brooklyn. Applicant: Rodolpho Rodriguez & Specter, LLP for Hayden Heller, owner. Community Board No. 88K. This application, Cal. No. 256-07-SZ, has been calendared for Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, 1:30 P.M. session, 40 Rector Street, 4th floor Hearing Room, Borough of Manhattan. Interested persons or associations may appear at the hearing to present testimony regarding this application. This notice is published by the applicant in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Standards and Appeals.

State University of New York  
Notice to Bidders

The State University of New York, Downtown Medical Center will receive Qualifications from Consulting Firms to provide architectural design and construction administration services for Project No. 07-111 Titled "PICU Alterations" until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on August 28, 2009 at 450 Clarkson Avenue, Room 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203, Box 113.

Minimum Qualification Requirements: The Consultant must be a licensed Architect in the State of New York, must have experience in the design of Pediatric and/or Intensive Care Units in hospital facilities, and experience in the construction administration of projects of similar scope and size within the last five (5) years.

All work on this Contract is to be completed within 540 calendar days starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller. A complete set of documents for this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) may be obtained from: Daniel P. Devine, Purchase Associate, Contracts and Procurement Department, SUNY Downtown Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Telephone Number: (718) 826-5009, e-mail: [dan.devine@sunydownstate.edu](mailto:dan.devine@sunydownstate.edu). There is no cost for the RFQ documents.

Four (4) complete sets of Qualifications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions contained in the Request for Qualifications.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.

The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on State of "SUNY" 06/30/2009, bearing Index Number NC-0070209, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of Deshaun Kicksion. My present name is Erin Sirinak. Kicksion AKA Erin S. Kicksion. My present address is 883 45th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220. My place of birth is Downers Grove, DuPage Co., Illinois. My date of birth is November 22, 1983. (SP)

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Notice is hereby given that a license, #1229137 has been applied for by El Conquistador Latino, LLC, to sell beer, wine and/or liquor at retail in a restaurant, for on premises consumption under the ABC Law at 721 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11232.

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The Brooklyn Paper





## Zeke: Cyclones Freak

By Zeke Faux

### Lefty hunter

Sage, a deerslayer back home, is killing lefties

He can jam a left-handed batter with a slider, freeze a lefty with a curve — and take down a deer at 40 yards with a bow and arrow.

Meet "Hunterman," the lefty specialist in the Cyclones bullpen and the deadliest deerstalker this side of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Hunterman — Brandon Sage, if you insist — is holding lefties to a .071 average and has a 0.64 ERA, second on the Clones.

Clearly, the Mets got something right when they drafted the 22-year-old in the 37th round, despite his 4.64 ERA for the University of South Alabama. The 6-foot-2 southpaw doesn't talk much, but he quickly earned the trust of manager Pedro Lopez with his aggressive approach on the mound and the affection of his teammates with his slowwww "Bama drawl."

"Hunterman's just got that country swagger," said catcher Ralph Henriquez, who's from Key West, Fla. "They don't make them like that where I'm from — he's probably shot like 40 deer."

Lopez preferred to focus on Sage's other fireproof.

"His secondary pitches are so good, he's tough to catch," said the skipper.

"He's everything they said he was — and more."

Sage didn't know what to expect when he got the call from the Mets. Growing up and going to college in Mobile, he could drive to the woods in minutes in his jacked-up Bronco, blasting his favorite country singer, Hank Williams Jr.

"I knew it was going to be different," said Sage.

And?

"There are a lot more buildings." So he's a man of few words. Good thing I've been to Mobile so I could bring up a few other differences: tattooed biceps vs. tanned ex-cheerleaders? "No comparison," he said. The subway vs. trucks with giant rims? "The subway's a treat." And Keyspan Park vs. Hank Aaron Stadium — the Mobile BayBears' park where luxury boxes take up the entire field level? (He likes Keyspan.)

Anything I missed?

"They don't play country music at the Buffalo Wild Wings here," he said, referring to the national chain in the Atlantic Center Mall, a popular Cyclones hangout.

Sage's college coach was pleased to hear that his former star was making himself at home.

"Being a southern boy, he's probably not used to the culture in Brooklyn, but he's a fine young man, so I'm sure he'll get it," said Stu Kittrell, who wasn't surprised that Sage was adjusting to pro lefties, either. "He's got a knack for getting lefties out, because they have to expect the breaking ball, and he can locate the fastball pretty good, too."

The lefty killer himself didn't have much to say about his pitching technique, but he was happy to show me how to take down a deer with one shot.

"The place you want to hit it is right behind the shoulder blade. The arrow goes right through his lung and the deer just drops," Sage explained.

It's the same technique for freezing lefties with a breaking ball, I asked.

"No," said Sage.

I tried again with my best Forest Gump impersonation. "Ain't strikin' out a lefty just like baggin' a big ol' buck?"

"Not really," said Sage.

The ballplayer had baffled the best writer. Guess it goes to show that — to quote Hank Jr. — a country boy can survive, even in Brooklyn.

Zeke Faux is a sports columnist for The Brooklyn Paper. His last name is pronounced "Fox."

### The Faux Hole

Outfielder John Servidio trails hated Yankees Neil Melchill for the homer lead, nine to six. All of Servidio's homers have come at Keyspan Park. ... The Cyclones were offering free season tickets for life to anyone who gave birth or promised to name their kid "Cy" or "Brooklyn" during Sunday's "Bellies and Baseball" promotion. No one did. ... Monday is both Darryl Strawberry Night and Medieval Times Night at Keyspan Park. The first 2,500 fans will get a Strawberry bobblehead. The Straw is not expected to participate in the jousts, but you never know. ... Of the nine Cyclones with the most at-bats, four had batting averages below .200, the dreaded "Mendoza Line," through Tuesday. Luis Nieves has the lowest at .138. ... Reliever Lance Hoge (2.31 ERA) was called up to Savannah on July 26. ... Outfielder Nick Santomuro is hitting .400 with three homers over his last five games. ... The Cyclones' .979 fielding percentage led the New York-Penn League entering Tuesday. ... Michael Powers led the league in saves with seven through Tuesday. ... Luis Rivera unsuccessfully attempted to break his bat over his knee after striking out to end the sixth on Tuesday. Later, Nieves successfully dashed his batting helmet into pieces after getting thrown out.

## That's amore!

Cyclones just loved their blue Italian night uniforms

By Andy Hoffman

for The Brooklyn Paper

Now that's Italian! The Brooklyn Cyclones became the Brooklyn Cyclonis on Monday night, donning Italian soccer-style uniforms for the annual Italian Heritage Night at Keyspan Park.

In addition to the usual ethnic-themed fun — including Italian music from group Trey Bella, a stirring rendition of the Italian national anthem, "Il Canto degli Italiani," and a first pitch thrown out by local boy made good, boxer Paulie Maligaglia — the Cyclones looked extra special in those Azzurri-hued "Cyclonis" uniforms, designed by Kevin Jimenez.

"I love the blue from the Italian soccer team," said Jimenez, who has tweaked Cyclone home uniforms for other special event nights such as Jewish Heritage Night. "I put the uniform number on the left as opposed to under the team logo because that's how it is on



Justin Garber in azzurri, the Italian soccer uniform.

Despite the football origins of the design, it was baseball player-approved.

"I love these jerseys and blue is my favorite color," said manager Pedro Lopez.

First baseman Sam Honick agreed that these tops were the tops.

Better still? Unlike Italy's eye-blink post-war governments, the Cyclones showed true staying power on Italian Heritage Night, beating Aberdeen in 14 innings.

## EYE of the STORM

The world's best Cyclones coverage



Rightfielder Luis Rivera gunned down an infielder trying to score on a single in the 13th inning, saving the game — which the Cyclones then won in the 14th!



New Brooklyn Paper/Getty Images

## Feeding the defense

Pitcher owes his teammates big time

By Zeke Faux

for The Brooklyn Paper

Hey Cyclones, your next team dinner is on Mike Lynn!

The reliever was saved by spectacular defense twice this week. When he served up a deep drive on Sunday, Justin Garber laid out and made a diving catch as he sprinted back into the right-center field gap.

And when Lynn gave up a potentially game-losing hit in the 13th inning the next night, Luis Rivera gunned down a runner at the plate to keep the game tied.

"(Garber's play) was one of the best catches I've ever seen," said the grateful pitcher, who earned the win in the 3-2, 14-inning victory over Aberdeen on Monday.

"I told him I'd buy him dinner — same as with Luis."

The right-hander's first gift came on his first pitch on Sunday — a hanging breaking ball that Yankee Luke Minton smashed over Garber's head and to his left.

"I thought I was going to catch it on the run, but the ball kept sailing and at the last second I had to jump for it," said Garber, whose full-extension drive shocked the States Island crowd — and impressed his manager.

"It was probably the best catch I've seen as a manager," said Pedro Lopez.

"(Garber's play) was a turning point in the game."

Garber's grab turned a possible triple into a sac fly, keeping the Cyclones up by two in the fifth inning of the eventful 10-9 win.

But Rivera's later kept the L71 Amazon's from falling behind in extra innings.

With runners on first and second and two outs in the top of the 13th, Aberdeen's Levi Carvino lined a single to right field. Rivera charged the ball, came up with it on one hop and fired to catcher Ralph Henriquez, who blocked the plate and made the tag, keeping the game tied.

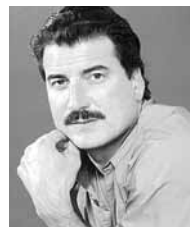
The Cyclones won the game in the next frame.

"I knew I'd get him because when I got the ball, I saw the runner at third base," said Rivera, whose favorite food is lasagna (midge, midges).

"Lasagna? I could probably swing that," said Lynn.

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